Entry 4: Documented Accomplishments:

Contributions to student learning

**Each Description and Analysis must clearly and specifically describe why each accomplishment is significant in your teaching context and what impact each has had on student learning**

Accomplishment #1: Participation in the 2009-2010 Chicago All-City Band Assessment

***What is the nature of this accomplishment?* Be very specific. Remember that the assessor**

**will know nothing about you or your teaching context.**

My first accomplishment is the participation of my High School Concert Band at the 2010 city-wide music performance festival. The focus of the music performance festivals is on the performance and assessment of high school bands performing a varied array of band repertoire chosen by the directors. The focus is on best practices of the instructor and musicians to bring out the optimum musical performance for students.

The festivals provide opportunities for solo performers, small ensembles and large performing organizations to exhibit the highest level of adjudicated performance through the selection and presentation of quality music literature. The festival format allows students and teachers to hear other performers while competing against a standard of excellence instead of each other; as represented by the performance rubrics developed for each event. Refer to the documentation of this accomplishment for the performance rubric for my High School concert bands assessment. The assessment is broken up into two parts, music performance of three musical arrangements prepared prior to the assessment, and sight reading of one band arrangement. The requirements of the prepared band arrangements are a march, a grade 3 or harder arrangement, and a slow ballad. The adjudicators submit a rubric assessment on paper of each piece performed, as well as an audio tape of commentary assessment during the actual performance of each piece.

***Why is this accomplishment significant?* To be significant, the accomplishment must be an**

**important effort or achievement that demonstrates your work as a partner with students’**

**families and their community; as a learner; and as a collaborator and/or leader with**

**colleagues or other professionals.**

This accomplishment is significant because students have a chance to get valuable and specific feedback on their own music performance and the music performance of the entire ensemble from experienced adjudicators that span the ranks of professional musicians to university professors to veteran music educators. It is also significant because students get the opportunity to listen to many other high school bands participating in the event. This accomplishment is also significant because it is the first time my High School has participated in this event since the 1970’s.

**As a partner with student’s families** this accomplishment is significant because parents get the opportunity to see and hear other high school bands, and experience the assessment process along with their child. This accomplishment is significant as a **learner** because I am given valuable feedback on the specific arrangements my band performed and rehearsed. I am then able to review and reflect on that feedback and apply it directly to my classes and program.

This accomplishment is significant as a **collaborator and leader** with colleagues and professionals because in preparation for this event I am in contact with other high school band directors about rehearsal strategies, musical selection, the adjudication process, and overall preparation of my ensemble. I am also collaborating with the adjudicators by participating in this event and gaining their knowledge, insight, and advice on improving my band program and teaching techniques.

This accomplishment has had a direct impact on student learning through the rehearsal and preparation process, the actual performance at the event site, and the reflection process afterwards in class. The adjudicator’s notes and audio recordings were listened to after the assessment took place; strategies suggested were applied directly to the pieces performed as well as in the new music given out for the next concert series. After reviewing and analyzing the assessment materials in class with the students, they were required to submit a written reflection about the assessment and there experience. A student work sample of this written reflection is provided and not only demonstrates a direct impact on learning in band, but also collaborates with the English program by applying writing strategies developed in the students English classes.

**Accomplishment #2: Family and Community Involvement Chair/Lead**

***What is the nature of this accomplishment?* Be very specific. Remember that the assessor**

**will know nothing about you or your teaching context.**

I am the chairperson and leader of the family and community involvement team for the past two years at my high school. The family and community involvement team is part of a larger organization known as the P.A.R.R. committee. P.A.R.R. is an acronym that stands for (Productive, Appropriate, Respectful, Responsible) and is a program implemented in partnership with a local university and focuses on positive behavioral intervention and supports (P.B.I.S.) “PBIS is a framework or approach for assisting school personnel in adopting and organizing evidence-based behavioral interventions into an integrated continuum that enhances academic and social behavior outcomes for all students.” (pbis.org) The mission of the family and community involvement team is to involve parents with their child’s academic life so they can be successful, involve parents and community in school activities, academics, and events, and create partnerships to work on school improvement priorities.

***Why is this accomplishment significant?* To be significant, the accomplishment must be an**

**important effort or achievement that demonstrates your work as a partner with students’**

**families and their community; as a learner; and as a collaborator and/or leader with**

**colleagues or other professionals.**

This accomplishment is significant as a **partner with student’s families and community** because the teams sole purpose and mission is to involve families and the community with the high school. These partnerships include parents involvement in school events, communication, attendance, chaperoning, fundraising, school wide decision-making, and improving other parents involvement in there child’s academic progress.

This accomplishment is significant as a **learner** because involvement with parents and community directly impacts my teaching and thus student learning. Having a working relationship and more information about the background of my student’s families and the community are crucial to aiding in my ability to teach. Identifying the culture of the students and their families at school has better prepared me for the challenges of differentiating my instruction. Having important information like socio-economic status, language, religious affiliation, family structure, home-life, and parental support which I have gained through leading this team has contributed greatly to my learning as a teacher and directly impacts the way I instruct my students.

This accomplishment is significant as a **collaborator and leader** with colleagues because I am the leader of the team, and the team consists of a group of teachers at our school that chose to be involved in improving the connection with families and the community to our school.

***How has what you have described had an impact on students’ learning?* You need to**

**connect your accomplishment to the learning of your students or the students of your**

**colleagues. Where appropriate, cite specific examples.**

This accomplishment has had a direct impact on student learning because one of the main objectives of the family and community involvement team this current year at our school is signing up parents for the parent portal, an online website that lets parents monitor their students’ academic progress and attendance from any computer at any time. There are also triggers within the program that allow parents to receive instant emails and text messages to their cell phone informing them when their child is tardy, absent, or grade is falling below a predetermined grade percentage by the parent. Refer to the documentation section for goals of the team and the progress made thus far for the first semester of 2010-2011 school year. By parents monitoring their child’s attendance and academic progress, students are more likely to stay on track and attend class, finish their homework and required assignments, and be accountable for their academic progress.

**Accomplishment #3: Superior rating in sight-reading at the Florida Bandmasters performance assessment**

***What is the nature of this accomplishment?* Be very specific. Remember that the assessor**

**will know nothing about you or your teaching context.**

The nature of this accomplishment is the participation and performance at a Band Masters performance assessment in another state due to high level instruction and student musicianship. There are multiple reasons for participation in this educational event.

“First, to provide opportunities for students and directors to perform in an environment which provides critical evaluation of its performance by noted experts in the field of band performance. Second, to provide the opportunity for students and directors to perform for their peers in a formal concert setting. Third, to provide a performance opportunity which will serve as a motivational goal for students and directors. Fourth, to provide an opportunity for students and directors to hear performances of their peers and learn from hearing those performances, and to provide a goal which is so compelling that the preparation for attaining that goal becomes the vehicle for continued growth and to demonstrate students' abilities to apply musical fundamentals and concepts in an ensemble performance setting.”

***Why is this accomplishment significant?* To be significant, the accomplishment must be an**

**important effort or achievement that demonstrates your work as a partner with students’**

**families and their community; as a learner; and as a collaborator and/or leader with**

**colleagues or other professionals.**

This accomplishment is significant because it is the first time my high school has ever scored a superior rating in the sight reading portion of the educational assessment. It also was significant because there is a direct correlation between professional development, instruction, and student learning.

This accomplishment is significant as a **partner with student’s families and communities** because parents got the opportunity to see and hear other high school bands, and experience the educational assessment process along with their child. Partnering with parents is necessary not only to chaperone and help in logistical matters, but also for the parents to experience firsthand their child’s music education through the assessment process. Normally parents would attend a concert where they would observe only the end product of student learning and not the active process of instruction.

This accomplishment is significant as a **learner** because through professional development and application of strategies learned at the Florida Music Educators State convention, refer to the documentation hand out related to a seminar attended; I was able to instruct my ensemble to a high performance level in the area of sight reading music. From this experience I was successful in implementing instructional strategies gained in sight reading from professional development at the convention I attended.

This accomplishment is significant as a **collaborator** with colleagues and other professionals because I am directly collaborating with the adjudicators which are professionals in the field of music education during the assessment process. In preparation for this event I contacted other high school band directors that participated in the event about rehearsal strategies, musical selection, the adjudication process, and overall preparation of my ensemble.

***How has what you have described had an impact on students’ learning?* You need to**

**connect your accomplishment to the learning of your students or the students of your**

**colleagues. Where appropriate, cite specific examples.**

This accomplishment impacted my students learning through the participation in the assessment process, adjudicator comments, both written and audio recordings, and the reflection. After completion of the assessment the students reviewed the assessment materials in class, wrote reflections based on the adjudicators comments, the video recording of their performance, and their overall experience. Students observed specific educational strategies that were highly effective and found value in those tools to aid them in their learning and performance skills.

Accomplishment #4: Professional Musical Performance and Partnerships

***What is the nature of this accomplishment?* Be very specific. Remember that the assessor**

**will know nothing about you or your teaching context.**

The nature of this accomplishment is my collaboration, musical performance, and partnership in multiple ensembles and community bands over the past four years of my teaching career. “The accomplished music teacher is, first and foremost, an accomplished musician.” (nbpts.org) Past professional experience includes the following and many more:

* Lane Tech Community Band, Chicago, IL, 2009-Present
* Chicago Chorale Winds, Chicago, IL, 2008-Present
* Who Needs Dave Jazz Ensemble, Chicago, IL, 2009-Present
* Old Town School of Folk Music, Latin Jam, Chicago, IL, 2010-Present
* WND Latin Band, Chicago, IL, 2010-Present
* Lakeview Jazz Ensemble, Chicago, IL, 2009-2010
* Lakeview Rock Ensemble, Chicago, IL, 2009-2010
* Pagowa, Musky Music Festival, Chicago, IL, 2009-2010
* Heartland Symphony Orchestra, Avon Park, FL, 2007-2008
* Highlands County Concert Band, Sebring, FL, 2006-2008
* United Methodist Wind Ensemble, Sebring, FL, 2007-2008
* Pirates of Penzance, Little Highlands theatre, Sebring, FL, 2007
* Brass Menagerie Brass Quintet, Sebring, FL, french horn and trumpet, 2007-2008
* University Community Orchestra, principal trumpet, Milwaukee, WI, 2006
* Chamber Orchestra, University Choir, UW-Milwaukee, WI, 2006
* Suessical, trumpet soloist, Milwaukee, WI, 2006
* Cardinal Stritch University Musical, Milwaukee, WI, 2006
* A Jacques Brel Revue Musical, trumpet soloist, Milwaukee, WI, 2006
* University of Wisconsin Concert Chorale Chorus, UW-Milwaukee, WI, 2005
* “Music From Almost Yesterday” Concerts, UW-Milwaukee, WI, 2004-2005
* Latin Heat, Lake Placid, FL, 2008
* Red, White, and Blues Band, Sunset Blues Festival, Sebring, FL, 2007
* G.I. Joe Jazz Band, Sebring, FL, 2006-2008
* Highland Airs Big Band, Sebring Civic Center, Sebring, FL, 2007
* Pagowa, Music festivals, Milwaukee-Chicago, WI, 2007-2010
* Jon Wade Jazz Ensemble, The Mosaic, Milwaukee, WI, 2005-2008
* Open jam sessions at various venues in the Milwaukee area, WI, 2005-2008

***Why is this accomplishment significant?* To be significant, the accomplishment must be an**

**important effort or achievement that demonstrates your work as a partner with students’**

**families and their community; as a learner; and as a collaborator and/or leader with**

**colleagues or other professionals.**

**As a partner with students families and communities:**

This accomplishment is significant as a partner with student’s families and community because many of the ensembles comprise of members of the communities in which I have taught. Many include current students, parents, community leaders, teachers, graduated students, and amateur and professional musicians.

**As a learner:**

This accomplishment is significant as a learner because I am constantly learning by applying my skills as a musician, collaborating with other musicians on a daily basis, and networking with other professionals.

**As a collaborator and/or leader with colleagues or other professionals:**

This accomplishment is significant as a collaborator and leader with colleagues and other professionals because in many of these ensembles I hold a leadership or principal position. Performing in musical ensembles requires constant collaboration in an effort to create a deep musical experience for both the musicians and the audience. This accomplishment is also significant as a collaborator with colleagues and other professionals because many of these ensembles membership comprise of other music directors, teachers, professional, and amateur musicians. By being involved in these activities I create a network of musicians that I can use as mentors for advice on instruction, musicianship, administration, career goals, and performance opportunities for my students outside of the classroom and into the community.

***How has what you have described had an impact on students’ learning?* You need to**

**connect your accomplishment to the learning of your students or the students of your**

**colleagues. Where appropriate, cite specific examples.**

My accomplishment as a professional musician has had a huge impact on my students learning. In this current year I site the specific example of my performance in the Lane Tech High School Community Band, an ensemble consisting of local band directors, teachers, and advanced high school students. Recently the community band performed at Lane Tech High Schools annual winter concert, and a few weeks after performed at my high school concert as a special guest ensemble. Please refer to the program documentation enclosed.

Life-long learning is a staple of my instructional strategy. It is extremely valuable for my students to see adults of all ages playing their instruments as a recreational activity and shows others take immense value in continuing their music education over the course of a lifetime. I constantly involve my students in my musical performance career inviting them to jam sessions and band rehearsals so they see firsthand the variety of musical opportunities that are available in their area. I have invited past professional ensembles to my concerts to perform, and have had professional musicians and veteran music educators assess my individual students and music program to ensure the highest quality of instruction and performance possible.